



# The HIGH ROAD

*"Preserving public confidence in public servants."*

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Hawaii State Ethics Commission

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## CAMPAIGN ETHICS GUIDELINES FOR STATE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

The political campaign season is upon us. As campaign activities intensify in the coming months, state officials and employees should be aware of campaign restrictions imposed upon them by the State Ethics Code. State officials and employees are prohibited from the following activities:

1. **Using state time, equipment, supplies, or state premises for campaign activities or campaign purposes.** Examples of prohibited activities include selling or distributing fundraiser tickets at state offices; producing campaign literature or materials with state equipment or state supplies; and soliciting campaign assistance at state offices.
2. **Using state personnel during state time for the purpose of performing campaign activities.**
3. **Using the state mail or state messenger service for campaign purposes.**
4. **Soliciting campaign contributions or assistance by sending letters addressed to state officials or employees at their state offices.**
5. **Using one's state position to give unwarranted advantages to campaigns.** In particular, the ethics code prohibits the use of one's official position to coerce campaign contributions or campaign assistance by others.
6. **Selling fundraiser tickets to subordinates or to businesses or persons supervised or inspected.**

The Commission's flyer, "Campaign Ethics Guidelines for Public Officials and Employees" contains additional information about the campaign restrictions. The Commission will

be distributing copies of this flyer in the near future to all state agencies and departments. Persons who would like to receive their own copy of the flyer should contact the Commission's office.

## GIFTS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS DUE JUNE 30, 1994!

The State Ethics Commission recently distributed over 5,000 flyers to remind state officials and employees that gifts disclosure statements for the period covering June 1, 1993 to June 1, 1994 must be filed with the Commission by June 30, 1994. State legislators, state employees, and state board and commission members who received gifts during this period must file gifts disclosure statements with the Commission if the following conditions are met:

1. The state official or employee, or a spouse or dependent child of the official or employee, received from one source (a) any gift valued in excess of \$200, or (b) any gifts whose combined value is in excess of \$200, AND
2. The source of the gift or gifts has interests that may be affected by official action that the state official or employee takes in his or her state capacity, AND
3. The gift is not exempted by HRS section 84-11.5(d) from the reporting requirements.

Failure to file a gifts disclosure statement as required by law constitutes a violation of the State Ethics Code.

Gifts disclosure statements must disclose the person or organization from whom a gift was received; the value of the gift and a description of the gift; and the date on which the gift was received. Disclosure statements

that are filed with the State Ethics Commission are public records.

Gifts disclosure packets containing additional information about the law as well as disclosure forms and instructions are available from the Commission. If you are unsure as to whether or not you must file a gifts disclosure statement, please call the Commission before the June 30th filing deadline.

### **COMMISSION RECOGNIZES WINNERS OF 1993-94 ETHICS ESSAY CONTEST**

On May 23, 1994, Mrs. Lynne Waihee hosted an awards luncheon at Washington Place to congratulate eight high school students who were winners in the 1993-94 State Ethics Commission Essay Contest. The Commission sponsors the annual contest to encourage public awareness of ethics in government. The contest was open to all high school students in Hawaii. Students were asked to write essays about the most serious ethics problem facing government today. The contest grand prize winner was Maryn Ideta Lee, a ninth grade student from Iolani School.

The Commission received over 400 essays from public and private high school students on Oahu, the Big Island, Maui, and Kauai. Winners received savings bonds from the Commission and certificates from Governor Waihee and the Hawaii State Legislature. Certificates were also presented to the teachers of the student winners in recognition of the teachers' efforts to promote ethics education.

### **LOBBYING EXPENDITURES REPORTS FOR 1993-1994 NOW AVAILABLE**

In response to increased public interest in lobbying activities and the amount of money spent by organizations that lobby at the state level, the State Ethics Commission recently released two reports summarizing lobbying expenditures for 1993 and for the first two months of 1994. This information came from expenditures statements filed with the Commission by lobbyists and organizations represented by lobbyists. The Commission's reports list the organizations that filed lobbying expenditures statements, the total expenditures reported by each organization, and the registered lobbyists for each organization. Copies of the Commission's lobbying reports can be obtained from the Commission's office.

### **1994 COGEL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN HONOLULU**

On December 4-7, 1994, the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, the Hawaii County Board of Ethics, and the Office of Information Practices will co-host the 16th annual conference of the Council On Governmental Ethics Laws ("COGEL"). Originally scheduled to be held in Kona, the conference has been moved to Honolulu where it will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel. The conference will feature concurrent sessions on ethics, elections, campaign finance, lobbying, and freedom of information. Prominent national and international speakers will participate in conference sessions which are designed for federal, state, and local government employees; commission members; legislators; and native peoples. More detailed information about the 1994 COGEL conference, including registration information, will be featured in the next issue of The High Road. In the meantime, reserve December 4-7, 1994, on your calendars for the COGEL conference!

The High Road is a publication of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission.  
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